

From: [Julie Miller](#)
Subject: # 230198, 400 Main Street/City Harvest
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 8:40:27 AM

Dear Neighborhood Planning & Development Committee:

As the chairwoman of the City Market Oversight Committee, I wanted to lend my perspective to the 400 Main Street/City Harvest development review process.

It is my understanding that the original iteration of the plan provided adequate parking for City Market employees, but now that the project is moving through municipal review, the parking feature has been dropped. I'm concerned that will negatively impact City Market as well as the district as lack of employee parking will impede the operations of many of City Market's small businesses in terms of attracting and retaining workers.

I have lived downtown for 23 years, in the River Market for 12 years and have watched the River Market grow and prosper over the past decade. City Market has everything to do with the vibrancy of the district and is a crucial reason the neighborhood is a desirable place to live. While I certainly realize the benefit of more than 400 new residents, I'm deeply concerned that a drastic reduction in employee parking will make it nearly impossible for these locally owned small businesses to offer competitive hourly employment. Nearby, safe, reserved parking is of the utmost importance to restaurateurs and retailers who have strict shift changes and employ hourly wage earners who cannot afford to live in the neighborhood. Our public transit system is not yet robust or dependable enough to support the long vision of those who are proponents of eliminating parking necessary to support City Market's workforce.

This economy is challenging enough for small businesses, and it's simply not right to knowingly add another factor that could lead to their attrition – particularly considering the City's stewardship capacity of the City Market. When City Council approved City Harvest's original proposal, they approved a plan that acknowledged and was in sync with City Market's most basic needs. The current plan is no longer true to that intention, and I would like the Neighborhood Planning & Development Committee to require the development team to return to the spirit of protecting the River Market's economic ecosystem rather than destroying it.

Sincerely,

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